DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

An Interactive Activity Workbook

A guide to understanding, applying, and defending the rights of citizens.

This deck belongs to:

____

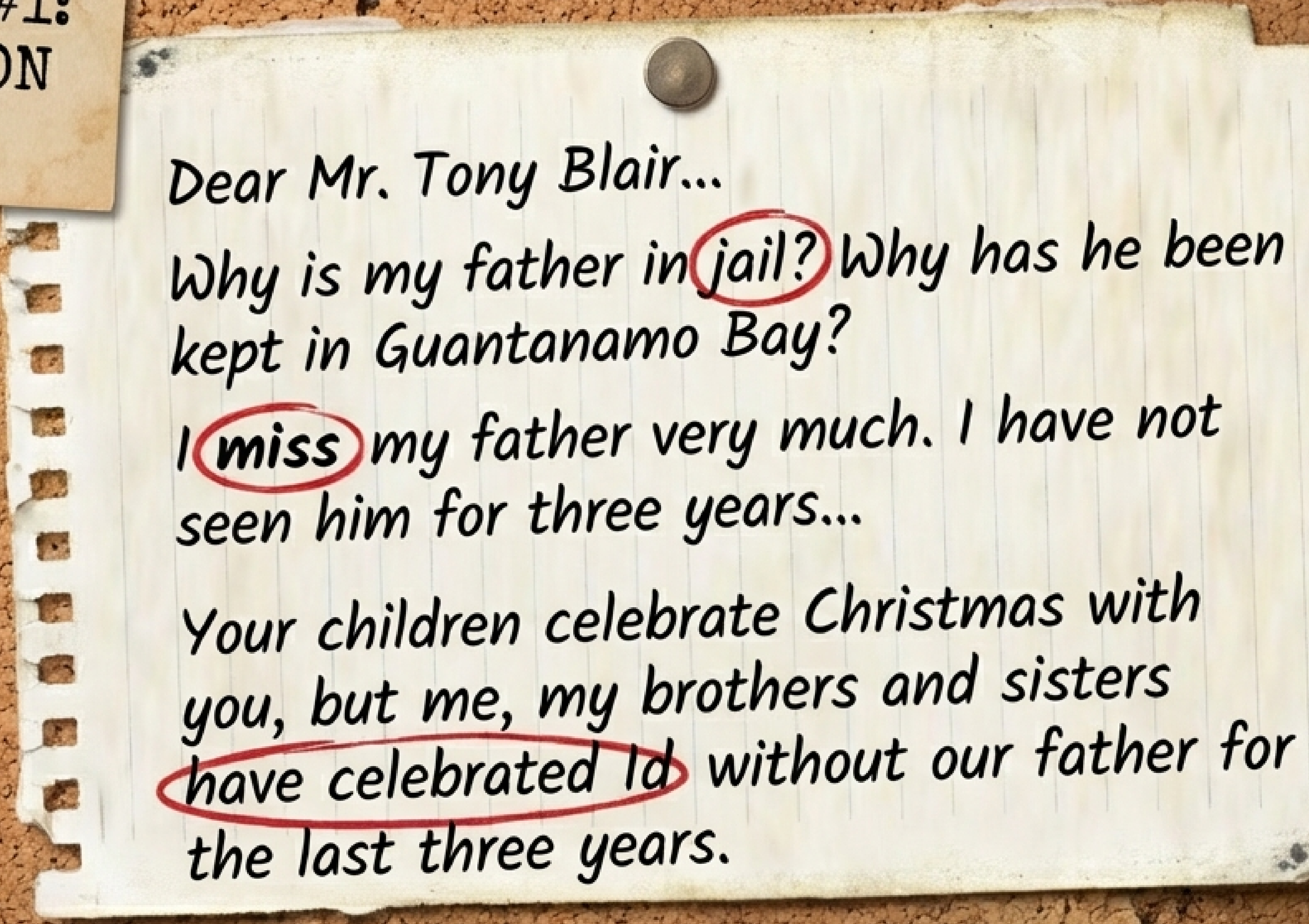
THE INVESTIGATOR'S PRIMER

DEFINITION: Rights are reasonable claims claims of persons recognized by society and sanctioned by law.

☑ 1. Is the claim reasonable?
☐ 2. Is it recognized by society?
☐ 3. Is it sanctioned by law?

Note to File:
Democracy requires these elements to survive.
Elections are not enough; rights are the guarantee.

CASE FILE #1: THE PRISON LETTER



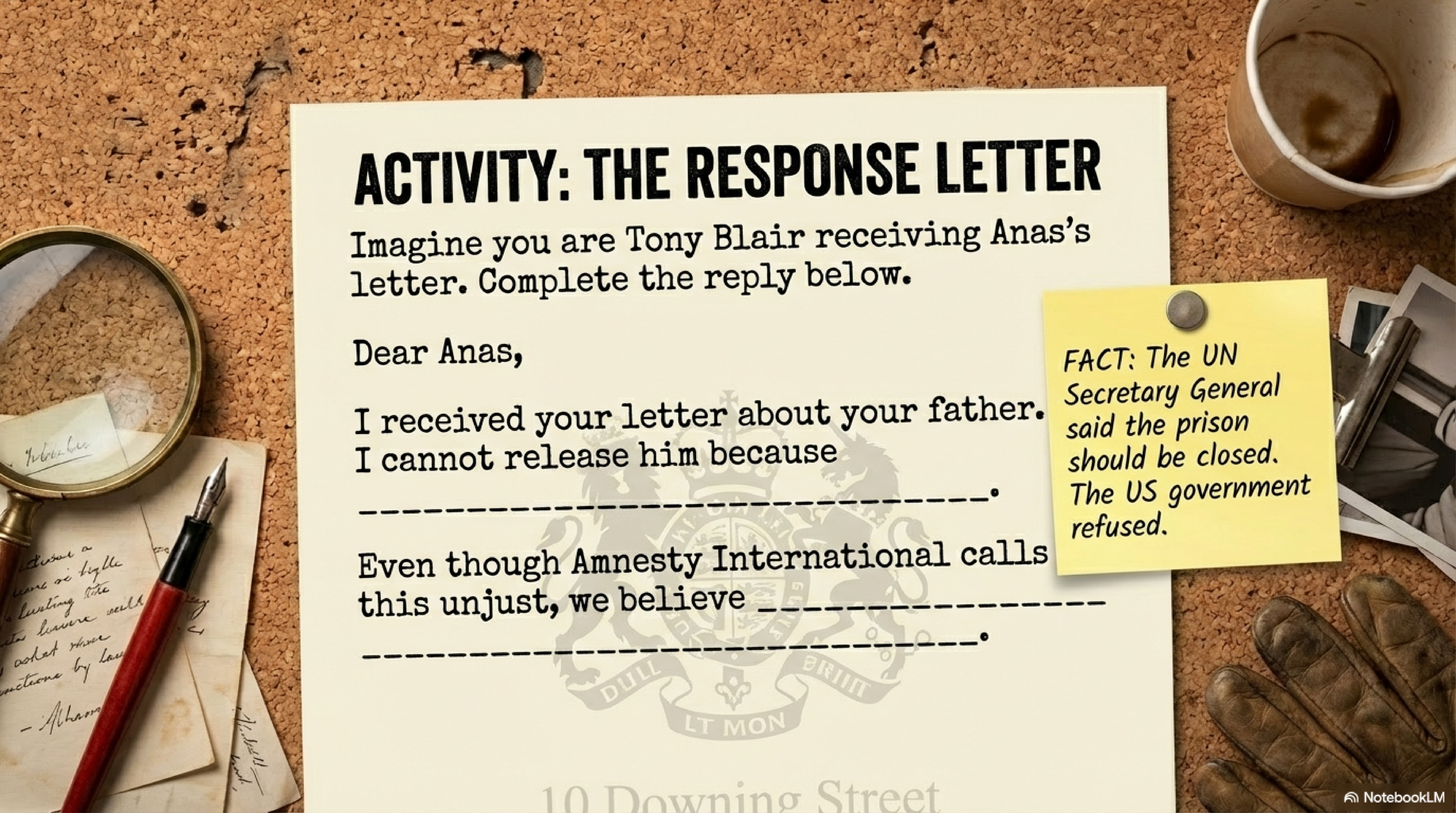
Dear Mr. Tony Blair...

Why is my father in jail? Why has he been kept in Guantanamo Bay?

I miss my father very much. I have not seen him for three years...

Your children celebrate Christmas with you, but me, my brothers and sisters have celebrated Id without our father for the last three years.

CONTEXT: 600 people secretly imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay by US forces. No trial. No family contact. If the government offers no trial, whose rights are being violated?



ACTIVITY: THE RESPONSE LETTER

Imagine you are Tony Blair receiving Anas's letter. Complete the reply below.

Dear Anas,

I received your letter about your father. I cannot release him because

________________________________.

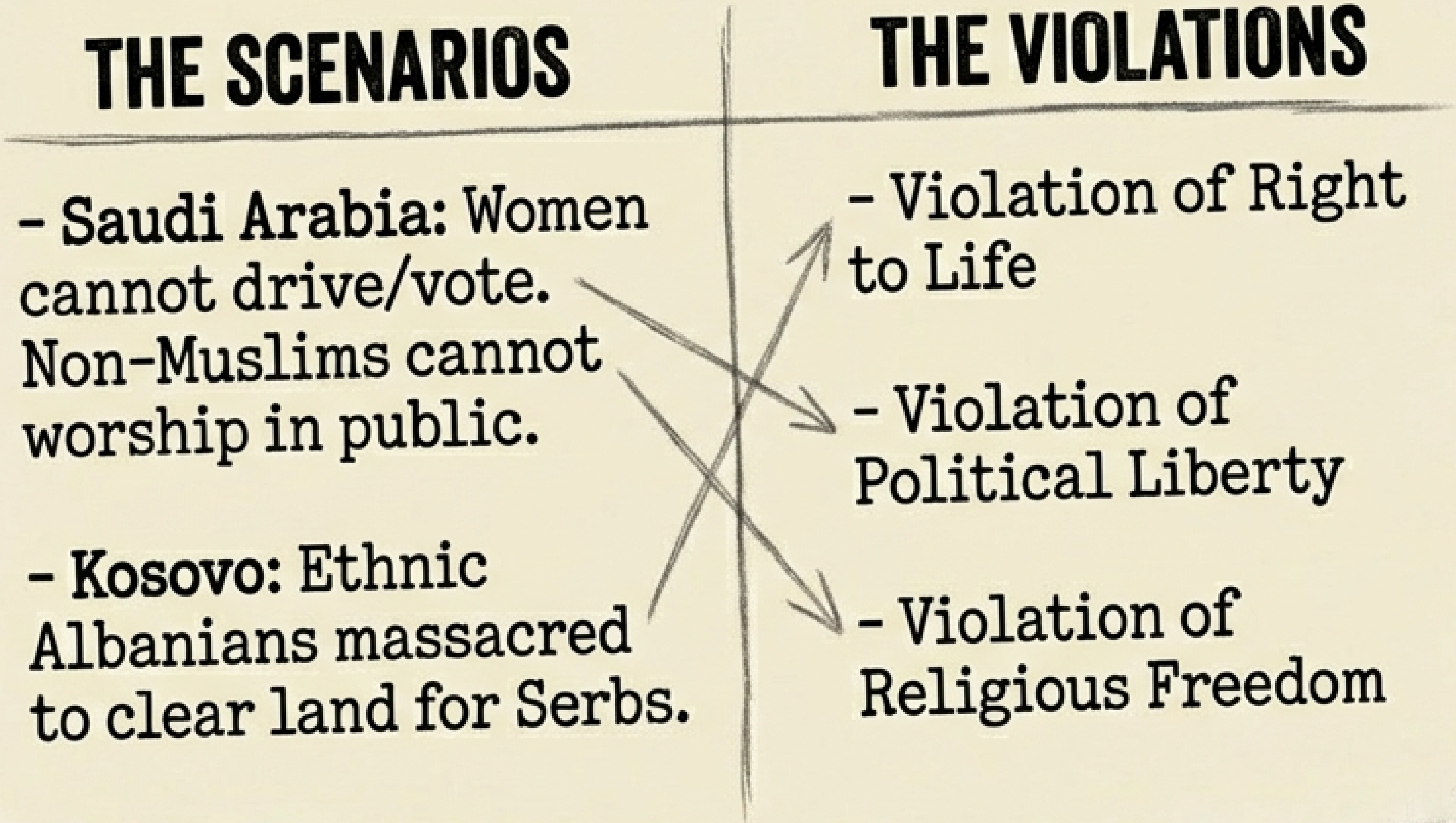
Even though Amnesty International calls this unjust, we believe ________________

________________________________.

FACT: The UN Secretary General said the prison should be closed. The US government refused.

10 Downing Street

CASE FILE #2 & #3: SPOT THE VIOLATION



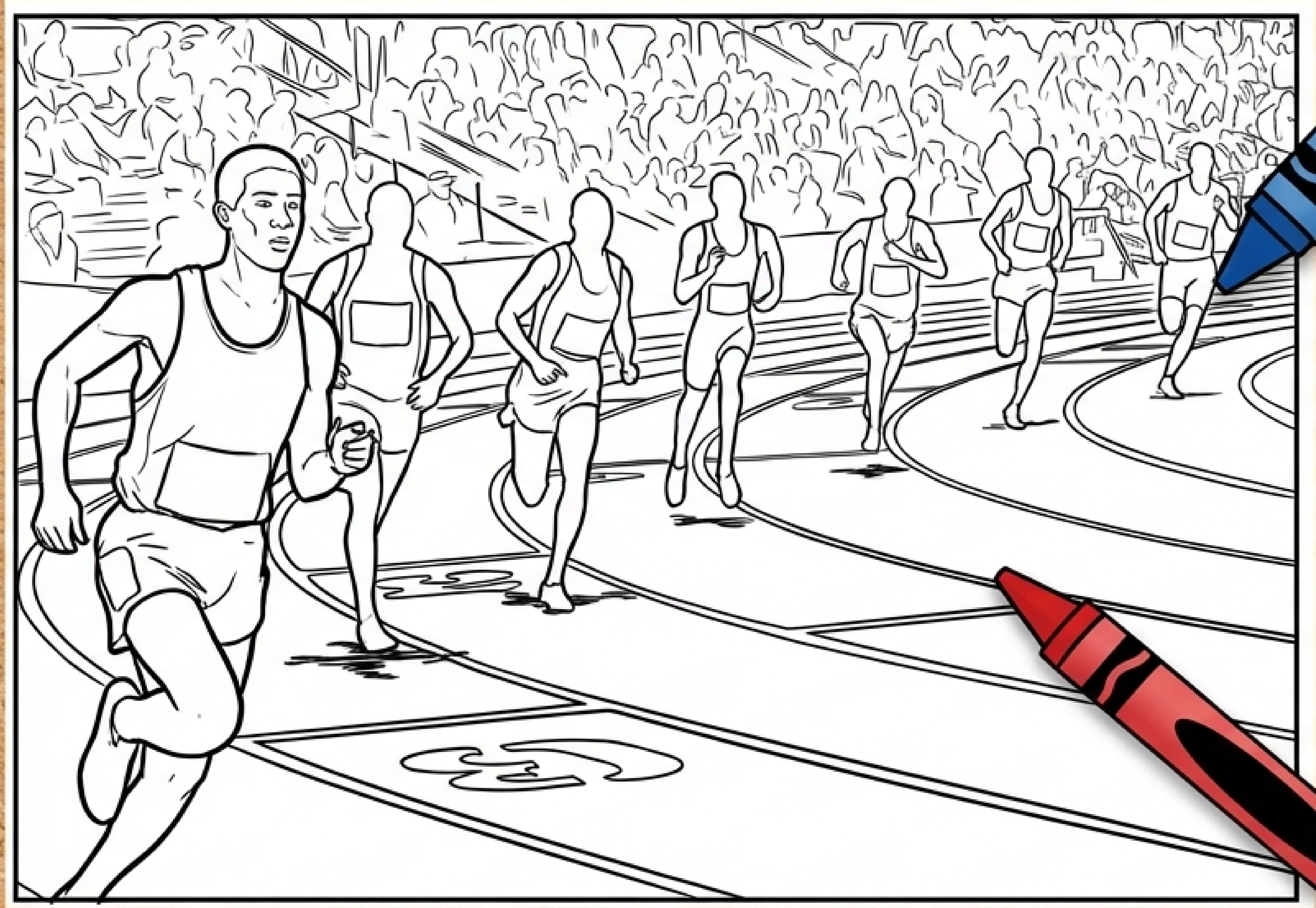
THE SCENARIOS

- **Saudi Arabia:** Women cannot drive/vote. Non-Muslims cannot worship in public.
- **Kosovo:** Ethnic Albanians massacred to clear land for Serbs.

THE VIOLATIONS

- Violation of Right to Life
- Violation of Political Liberty
- Violation of Religious Freedom

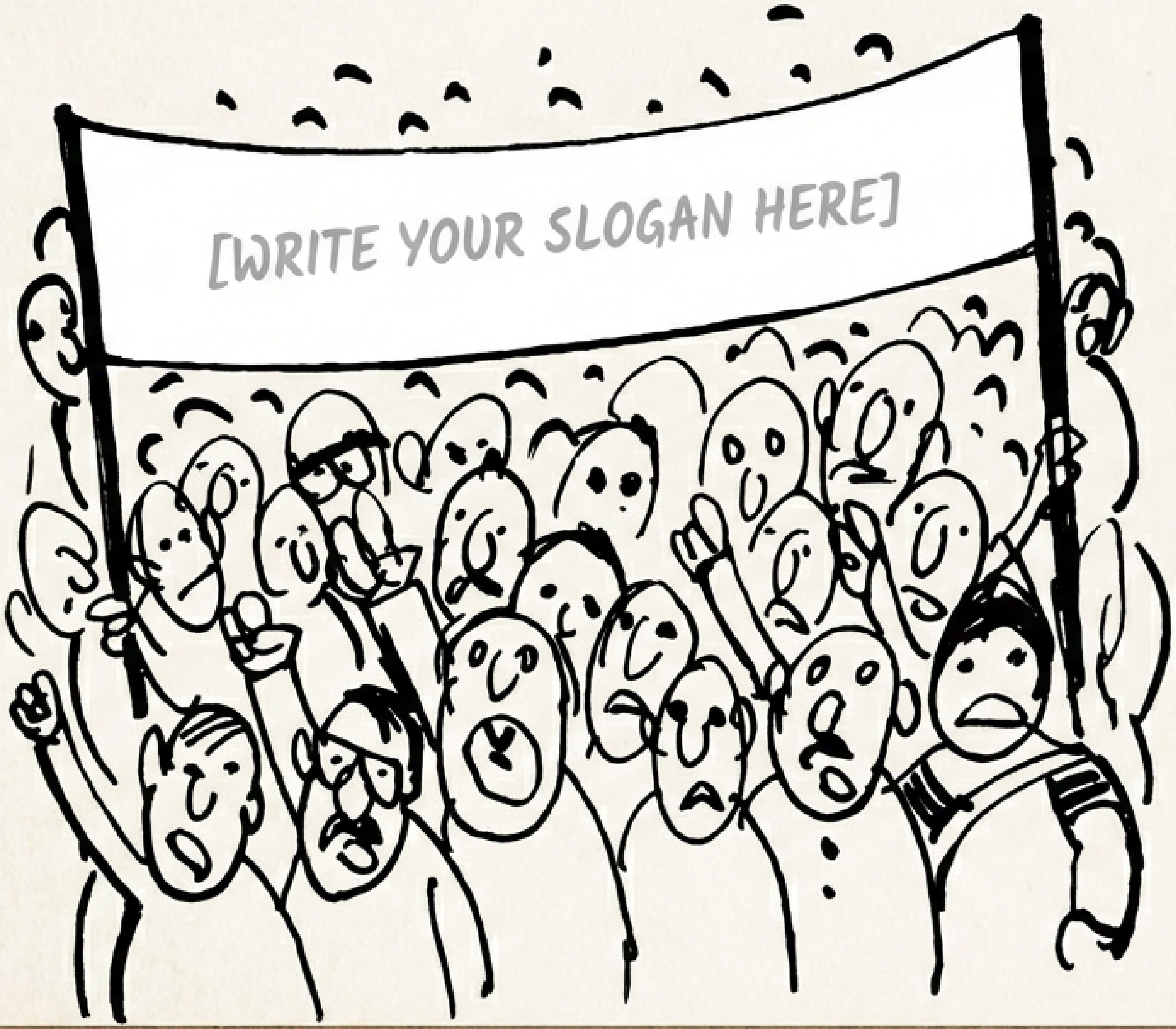
THE ARTIST'S CORNER: VISUALIZING EQUALITY



Does 'Equality' mean everyone starts at the same physical point, or that everyone has a fair distance to run?

LESSON:
Equality does not always mean "the same." Sometimes it means leveling the playing field (like Reservations in India).

ACTIVITY: THE PROTEST POSTER


[WRITE YOUR SLOGAN HERE]

Choose a cause and write a slogan:

1. Freedom of Speech
2. Right to Information
3. Right to Education

Coloring Tip:
Color the faces to show the diversity of the citizens.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK: 6 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Right to Equality

Right to Freedom

Right against Exploitation

Right to Freedom of Religion

Cultural & Educational Rights

Right to Constitutional Remedies

THE REGISTRAR SCENARIO: IDENTITY CRISIS

CONTEXT: Madhurima goes to register property. The official insists she take her husband's name.

REGISTRAR: You are married. You must change your name to Madhurima Rao.

MADHURIMA: No. If my husband didn't change his name to marry me, why should I?

REGISTRAR: It is tradition.

MADHURIMA: ____
____.

Hint: Complete her argument using the Right to Equality and Right to Freedom.

CASE FILE #4: THE JOB INTERVIEW

VERDICT FORM

CASE: Manoj is denied a manager job. The clerk says, "The son of a sweeper should apply for a sweeper job."

JUDGE'S DECISION:

☒ GUILTY ☐ NOT GUILTY

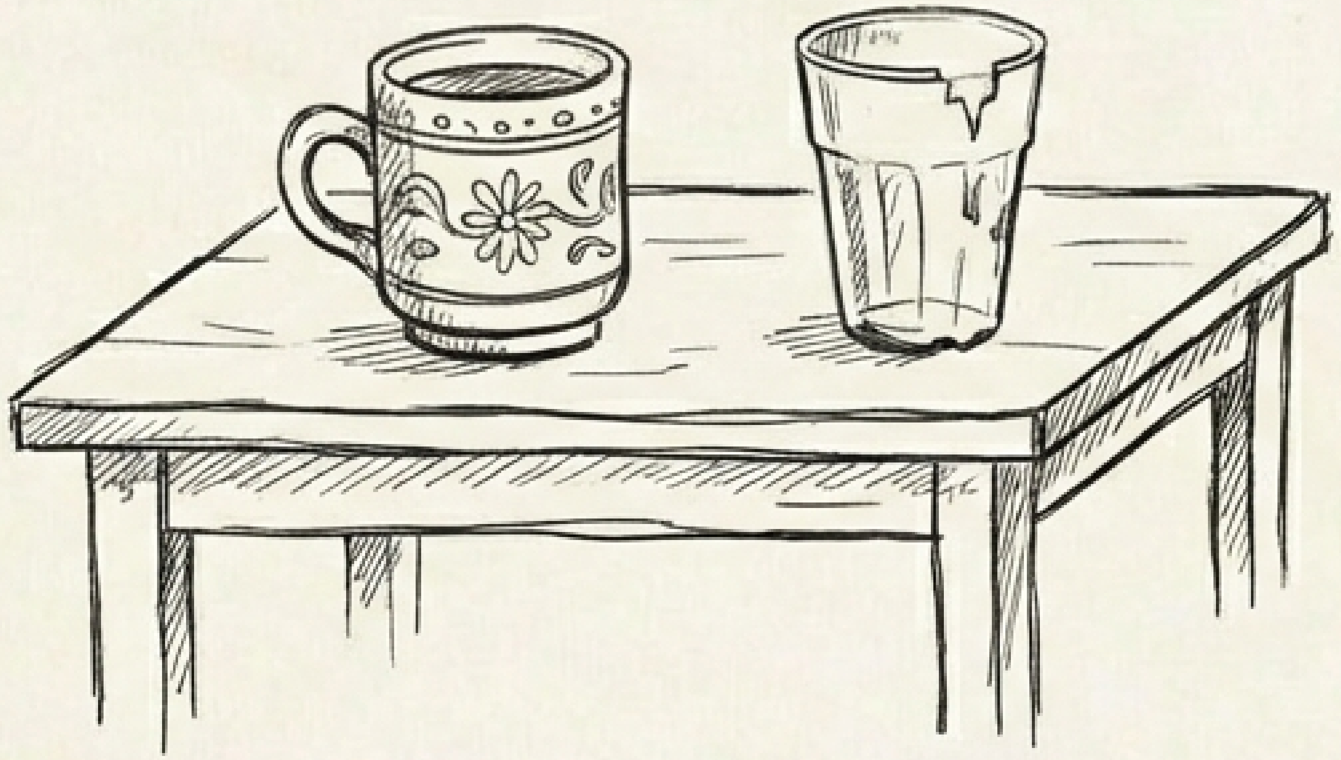
VIOLATION CITED:

Article 16: Equality of opportunity in public employment.

Article 17: Abolition of Untouchability.

THE TEA SHOP INVESTIGATION

Based on P. Sainath's reporting, 1999.



FACT: In some tea stalls, separate cups are kept for Dalits vs. other customers.

THE QUESTION: Is this a violation of rights if it is a private shop?

THE LAW: YES. Article 17 abolishes 'Untouchability' in any form. It forbids discrimination in access to shops, hotels, and public places.

QUICK FIRE: FREEDOM OR VIOLATION?

	TRUE / FALSE	
1. I can use my speech to incite people to rebel against the government.	TRUE [✗ FALSE]	Restriction: Incitement to violence.
2. I can buy property in any part of India.	[✓ TRUE] FALSE	Freedom of Movement.
3. The government can ban women from certain dangerous military jobs.	TRUE [✗ FALSE]	Gender cannot be a ground for discrimination.
4. The police must present an arrested person before a magistrate within 24 hours.	[✓ TRUE] FALSE	Rights of Accused.

DEEP DIVE: RELIGION & EXPLOITATION

1. CHILD LABOR: The Constitution bans employment of children under the age of...

   a) 12 [✓ b) 14] c) 18

2. SECULARISM: What does it mean for India to be a secular state?

   a) The PM must be secular

   [✓ b) No religion is the official state religion]

   c) All religions are banned.

THE GUARDIAN OF RIGHTS

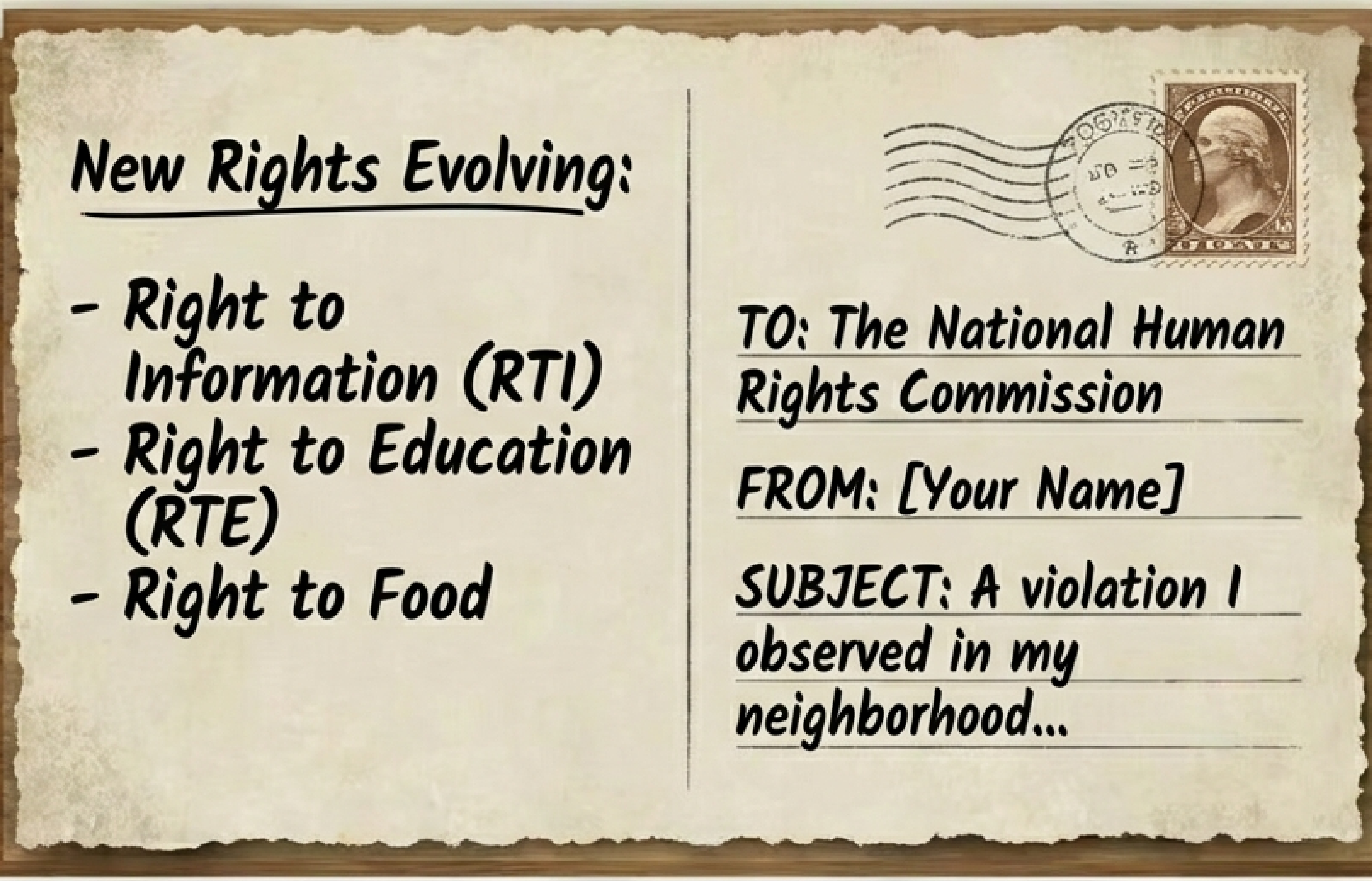
> **"The Heart and Soul of the Constitution"**
> – Dr. Ambedkar

Right to Constitutional Remedies

ENFORCEMENT

- If a Fundamental Right is violated, a citizen can go directly to the Supreme Court.
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) acts as an independent watchdog.

EXPANDING HORIZONS



New Rights Evolving:

- Right to Information (RTI)
- Right to Education (RTE)
- Right to Food

TO: The National Human Rights Commission

FROM: [Your Name]

SUBJECT: A violation I observed in my neighborhood...

Rights are not static. They grow as we claim them.